SOME

OBSERVATIONS

Made upon the

WOOD

CALLED

Lignum Nephriticum,

Imported from

HISPANIOLA:

SHEWING

Its Admirable VIRTUES

In Dissolving

The STONE in the REINS and BLADDER, Helping the *Strangury*, and Stoppings in the Water, and Easing all Pains proceeding from thence, *&c.*

Written by a Doctor of Physick in the Countrey to the President of the Colledge of Physicians in *London.*

Printed in the Year 1694.

BRITISH MUSEUM
SALE DUPLICATE
1787

SOME

OBSERVATIONS

Made upon the

Nephritick Wood,

IMPORTED FROM

The INDIES:

In a LETTER, &c.

SIR,

YOu may juſtly wonder that I who am a Stranger to you, ſhould communicate a Specifick Medicine to one whoſe Experience can furniſh him with many; but the Reaſon why I do it, is, becauſe your Emi-

nent Station in the Colledge renders you the more capable of recommending it to the Practice of other Phyſicians. I confeſs the thing hath been known by Name a long time, but it hath not been brought into general uſe; and this was the Fate of the *Peruvian Bark*, untill we know who made ſucceſsfull Experiments of it, and brought it into Great Reputation.

I have in my Travels through ſeveral Parts of the World, made many curious Obſervations upon the uſe of ſpecifick Remedies, and I have Communicated ſeveral, as ſome at *London* can tell you. I know no more need of Publiſhing my Name, than the Author of *The Whole Duty of Man* had for Not-divulging his. I am ſure my Deſign is not private Advantage, but Publick Benefit.

I hear of very conſiderable Cures that have been wrought at *London* by the Uſe of ſome Spicificks that I have made made Publick, and that encourages me to tell the World of more, in Imitation of the Example of the great

great Esquire *Boyle*, who was my particular Friend.

The Learned and Curious Sir *John Floyer* at *Litchfield*, hath been wonderful Kind in Communicating many Specificks, and put us in a way to find out the Nature and Quality of Druggs by their tastes and smells; and he saith that he doth not question but that the Artificial Jumbles of many Medicines together will in time be rejected, and every Ingenious Practicer will chiefly make use of Simple Medicines, by which his Patient will be more suddenly, safely and pleasantly Cured.

When I call to mind the Practice of *Hypocrates* and *Galen*, who wrote their Books and Publisht their Receipts in the Language of the Countrey where they dwelt, I judge I may well be excused from Blame.

The Specifick that I recommend is the Tincture drawn from the true *Nephrittick Wood*, which comes from *Hyspaniola*; it may be

be known from the ſpurious ſort by its communicating a Blew Sky-coloured Tincture unto Spring-water, which the other will not do: By its peculiar quality it reſiſts the Petrifactive Diſpoſition of the Reins and Bladder, it cleanſeth thoſe parts from mucilaginous ſlimy Humours, which are apt to lodge in the Urinary Paſſages, and by its Abſterſive Property it prevents the Coagulation of Sand and Gravel, it dilates and lubrifies the Uretors, and cauſeth an eaſie expulſion of ſmall Stones, and cures a Suppreſſion of Urine and Strangury; it heals the Excoriation, cauſed by the Acrimony of the Humours, and eaſeth Pain in making Water; it cools the Reins, and mitigates the ſcalding Heat of Urine, and diſſolves the Stone as far as any Medicine is capable of doing it.

I could give you many ſtrange Examples of great Cures wrought with it: And particularly a Woman much afflicted with the Strangury, with an acute Pain in her Hip, and frequent reaching to Vomit, ſhe took Sixty Drops of the Tincture, Morning, Noon, and Night,

Night, in Ale and White-wine dulcified with Syrup of Marſh-mallows, ſhe voided in a Months time Nine Ounces of Gravel, and thirty ſmall Stones like great Pins-heads, and found great Eaſe.

A young Gentleman who was ſo exceedingly wrackt with the Stone that he was adviſed to be Cut, but a Friend coming in adviſed him to take the Drops of the Tincture drawn out of this Wood in Oyl of Walnuts, and it gave him Relief, and prevented the Return of his Pains, he continu'd it two Months.

I my ſelf frequently take the Spirit, and ſometimes the Extract, in all my Drink, fifty or ſixty Drops at a time, and find great advantage: I draw the Spirit and Extract with *Rheniſh* Wine.

An old Man who had frequent ſtopping in his Water, with twitching ſmart Pains, and ſometimes bloody Urine and great ſcalding, was wonderfully eaſed by the uſe of this Tincture,

Tincture, taken in Spaw-waters, and ſometimes in Milk ſweeten'd with Honey. It's endleſs to give Inſtances, I therefore take leave to Subſcribe my ſelf

Your Humble Servant, &c.